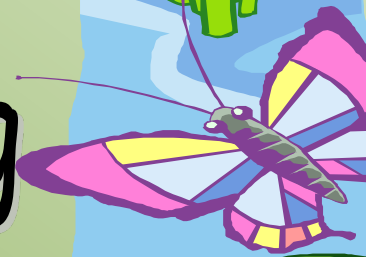
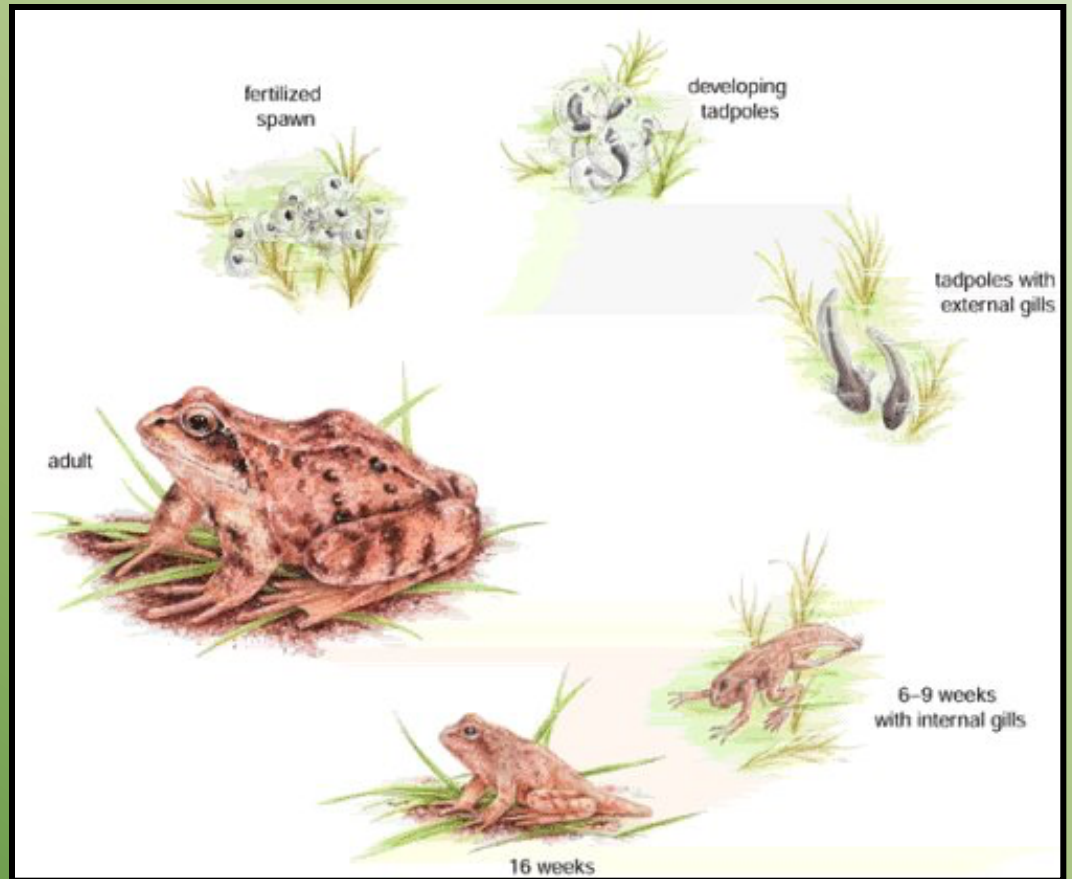


The Life Cycle of a Frog



Today we are going to look at the life cycle of a frog. This picture shows the different stages of development.



Let's have a closer look.

Frog Spawn

Frogs lay their eggs in water or wet places.

A floating clump of eggs is called frog spawn.

This large and slippery mass of eggs is too big to be eaten.

This is nature's way of protecting them.



Tadpole

The tadpole has a long tail, and lives in the water.

It must rely on its camouflage to protect it.

The tadpoles also face danger by being eaten by other water animals.

Sometimes a pond dries up and the tadpoles die.



Getting bigger

After about five weeks the tadpole begins to change.

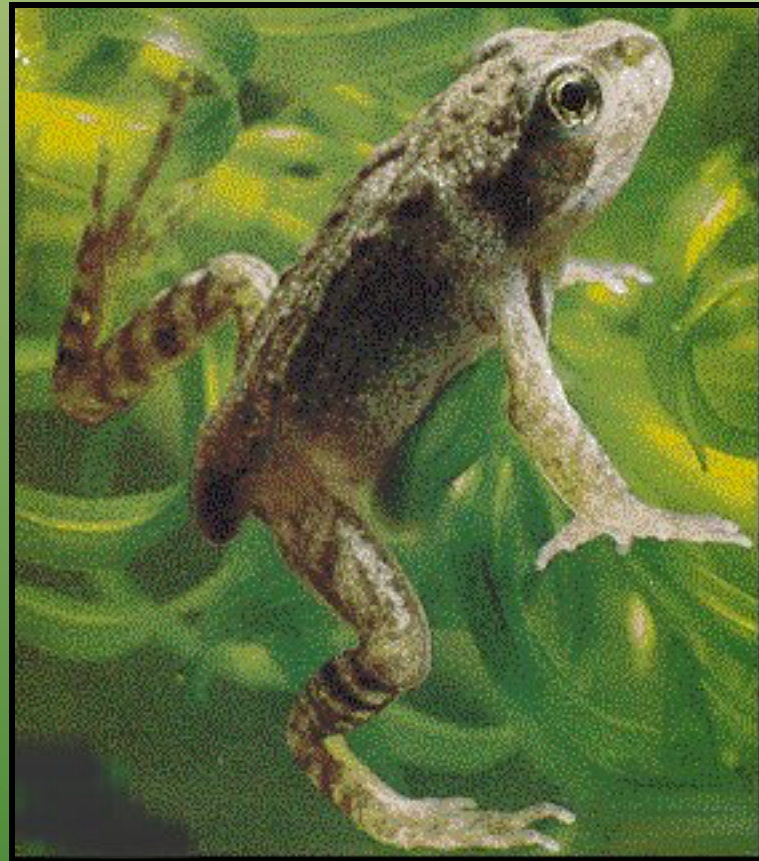
It starts to grow hind legs. Behind its head, bulges appear where the front legs are growing and its tail becomes smaller.

Lungs begin to develop, preparing the frog for its life on land.



A young frog

Over time, the tadpole becomes even more froglike. It has shed its skin and lips. Its mouth widens, and it loses its horny jaws. The tail becomes much smaller, and the legs grow. Its lungs begin to work.



An adult frog

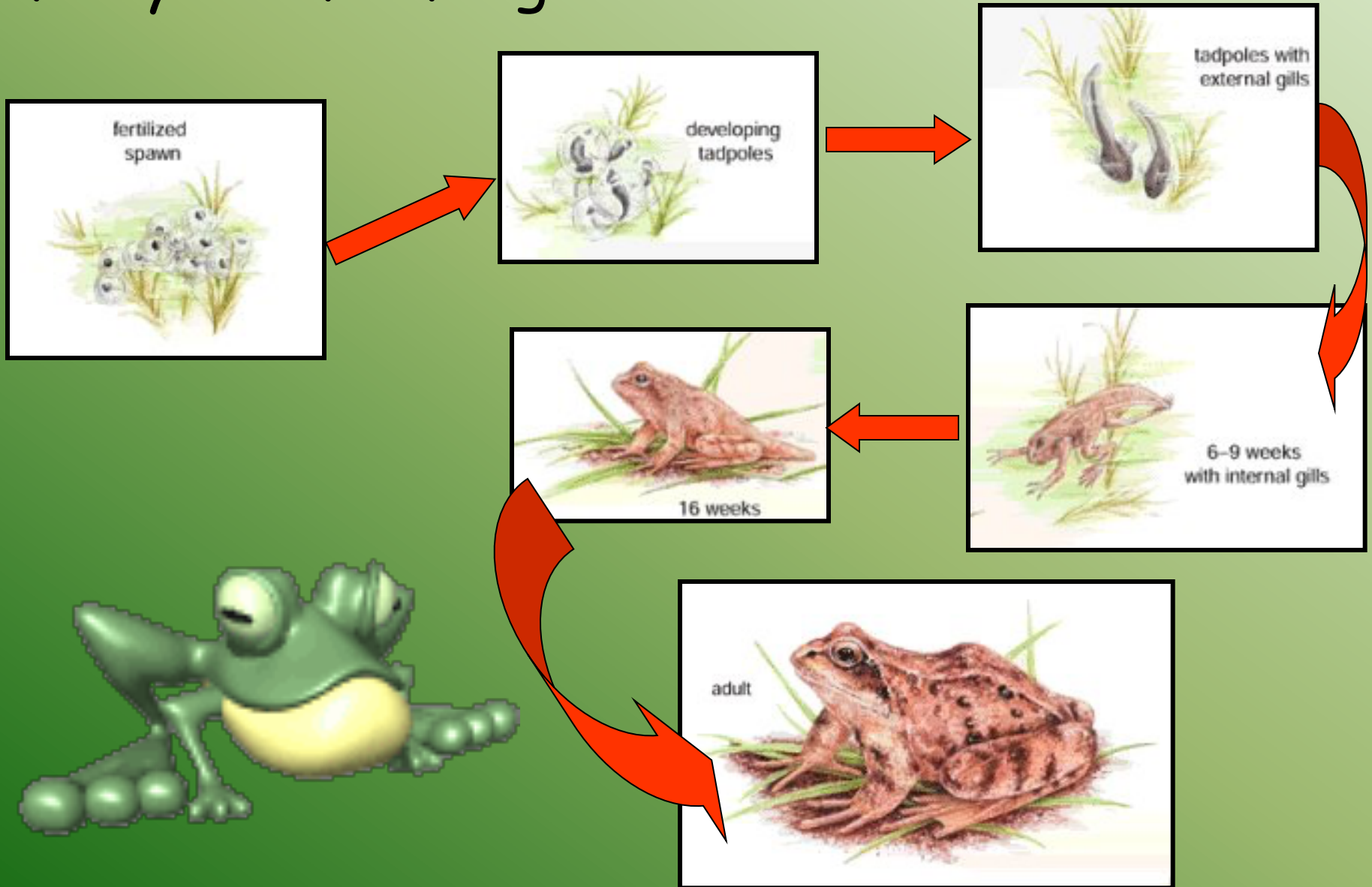
Eleven weeks after the egg was laid, a fully developed frog with lungs, legs, and no tail emerges from the water.

This frog will live mostly on land, with occasional swims. The tiny frogs begin to eat insects and worms.

Eventually, it will find a mate. The female lays the eggs, the male fertilizes them, and the whole process begins again.



Let's have one last look at the life cycle of a frog.



Animations available from
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www.communication4all.co.uk

